



Placer County Health and Human Services Department

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PLACER COUNTY H1N1 INFECTION CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLINICIANS IN OUTPATIENT SETTINGS SEPTEMBER 21, 2009

Placer County Public Health is issuing the following infection control recommendations to Outpatient Facilities regarding pandemic H1N1 influenza:

- Any patients or staff with a fever over 100°F with cough or other flu-like symptoms should be considered as suspect H1N1 cases.
- Patients who report mild illness AND who have no underlying medical conditions that place them at higher risk of complications from influenza need not be seen in the office and can be given instructions to call if they have signs of worsening illness.
- Patients who do have underlying medical conditions that place them at higher risk of complications from influenza should be considered for anti-viral treatment if influenza-like illness (ILI) develops. Developing a communication and management plan with higher risk patients so they know when to call will facilitate effective care and reduce contact with others.
- Patients who present to the office with influenza-like illness (ILI), should be segregated and asked to wear a surgical mask.
- Staff that will have close contact with a patient with suspect H1N1 influenza should use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including N95 respirator, gown, gloves, and eye/face protection.
- Patients who have serious illness and who may warrant admission should be evaluated in the emergency room.
- Advise staff to monitor themselves for ILI. Any staff with ILI should be excluded from the facility and stay home for 7 days or 24 hours past the end of the fever, whichever is longer.
- Outpatient facilities should take every measure necessary to assure maximal vaccination of all staff and patients against both seasonal flu and H1N1 flu.
- Outpatient facilities interested in giving 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) vaccine need to submit their estimates and requests for H1N1 vaccine on www.calpanflu.org. Both Seasonal and H1N1 vaccination should be offered to staff and patients according to ACIP guidelines.

Outpatient facilities can contact Placer County Public Health at (530) 889-7141 with questions or support needs. Further information about H1N1 influenza in healthcare settings is available from the Centers for Disease Control and the California Department of Public Health at the following websites:

<http://ww2.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/CDPH-H1N1FluIRecOutpatient082009.pdf>

www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resphgiene.htm

<http://ww2.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/H1N1UpdatedRecforHealthCareSettings.pdf>

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/10steps.htm> (includes planning for staff absenteeism, patient surge, etc.)